

REMARKS

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to correct typographical errors and obvious mistakes.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete “the” before the plural nouns and replace “the” by “a” or “an” before singular nouns (also before “pressure” on line 9), and to replace “ignition means” by “means for ignition.” The expression “controlled ignition” has been corrected on line 2.

Also, claim 1 has been presented with separate paragraphs to improve legibility.

Further, new method claims 10-18 corresponding to system claims 1-9 have been added. The present application is a national stage of a PCT application, so “unity of invention” rules apply. Accordingly, it is submitted that system and method claims are the same invention under “unity of invention” and should be examined together in this application.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 10 are the only independent claims.

I. **Objection to the specification**

In the Office Action, the abstract is objected to as including legal phraseology “disclosure”, “means”, “said”, etc.

The abstract has been amended to eliminate legal phraseology and reduced to 123 words. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objection should be withdrawn.

II. Objection to the IDS

In the Office Action, the IDS filed with the application is objected to. It is alleged that the cited documents have not been submitted in this application.

Since the International Search Report was prepared by the European Patent Office, it is believed that the documents have been transmitted directly by the EPO to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Applicant's representative respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the documents cited in the IDS filed with the application, or to contact Applicant's representative by telephone if the documents cannot be located at the USPTO.

III. Objection to the claims

In the Office Action, claim 1 is objected to on the ground of lack of antecedent basis for "the air-gasoline mixture" on line 5, "the exhaust gas" on line 7, "the air intake phase" on line 8, and "the air-gasoline-recirculated exhaust gas mixture" and "the combustion speed" on lines 9-10.

The lack of antecedent basis objections have been addressed by deleting "the" before the plural nouns and replacing "the" by "a" or "an" before singular nouns (also before "pressure" on line 9), and "ignition means" has been replaced by "means for ignition" as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objections should be withdrawn.

IV. Art rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(c) as anticipated by FR 2,830,570 or US 6,907,856 to Bourguignon et al. ("Bourguignon").

Further, claims 2 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Bourguignon.

Also, claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Bourguignon in view of US 6,439,210 to Faletti et al. ("Faletti").

The rejections are respectfully traversed. The cited Bourguignon references are not available against the present application.

Specifically, the US patent to Bourguignon issued on June 21, 2005 from a national stage of a PCT application filed on August 2, 2002 and published on May 22, 2003. The US national stage application was published on December 16, 2004. Thus, none of these publications are effective under section 102(b), because the publication dates are not more than one year before the PCT filing date of this application on March 19, 2004.

Further, the PCT application to Bourguignon was filed on or after November 29, 2000 and it was published in a language other than English (namely, French), so the PCT application and US patent to Bourguignon do not have any effective date of entry into the prior art in the US under section 102(e).

The date of entry into the prior art as a published patent document of the subject matter described in the PCT application to Bourguignon is the PCT publication date on May 22, 2003 under section 102(a). This is less than one year before the PCT filing date of the present application on March 19, 2004, and later than the filing date on April 4, 2003 of the French application No. 0304227 whose priority is claimed in this application.

Turning to the French application to Bourguignon, its publication date is April 11, 2003, which is also less than one year before the PCT filing date of the present application on March 19, 2004, and later than the filing date on April 4, 2003 of the French application No. 0304227 whose priority is claimed in this application.

A certified English translation of the priority French application No. 0304227 filed April 4, 2003 is submitted with this paper. As shown by the English translation, the priority French application is substantially identical to the present PCT application, so that the present claims are fully supported in the priority French application.

In view of the above, the French and US Bourguignon references are not available against the present application. Therefore, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment
US Appl. No. **10/551,824**
Attorney Docket No. **PSA05001**

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 502759.

Respectfully submitted,

/nicolas seckel/

Nicolas E. Seckel
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,373

Nicolas E. Seckel
Patent Attorney
1250 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (202) 669-5169
Fax: (202) 822-1257
Customer No.: 29980
NES/rep